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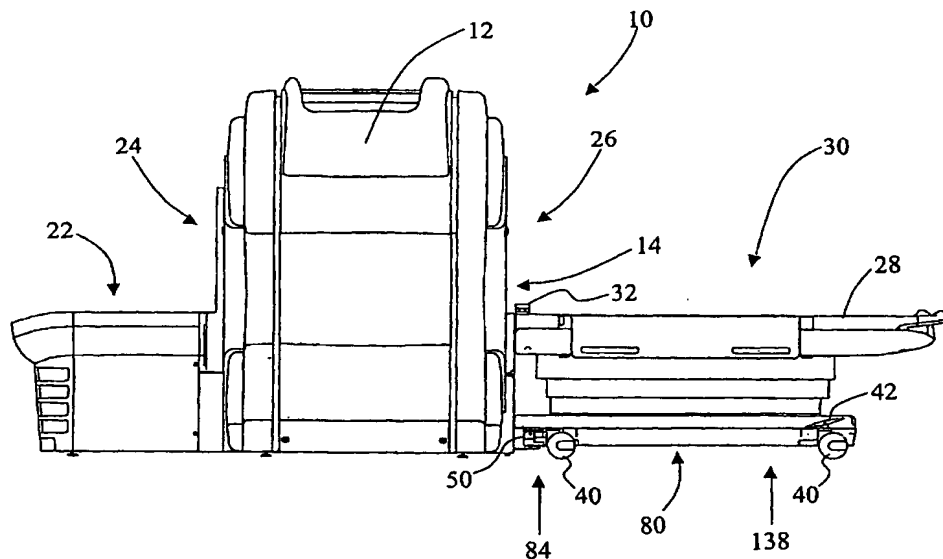
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATIC SELF-ALIGNING DOCKING OF A COUCH WITH A MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING SCANNER



(57) Abstract: A docking assembly connected to a movable couch (30) docks the couch with an imaging apparatus (10). Couch alignment surfaces (72) mate with corresponding alignment surfaces (64) of a connecting region (50) of the imaging apparatus (10) to define a docked position of the movable couch (30) with respect to the imaging apparatus. A docking sensor (160) detects the movable couch (30) approaching the docked position. A latch (82) mates with the connecting region (50) of the imagingto apparatus (10). An actuator (130, 154) cooperates with the latch (82) to bias the movable couch (30) into the docked position responsive to a signal produced by the docking sensor (160).

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